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Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information in Blue Text

Event Name	22-0010 Severe Weather 21MAR
Date	March 24, 2022
Time	9:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM March 23 to 8:00 AM March 24, 2022
Report Number	3

Regions Affected	
DPS Regions Affected	1, 2, 5, 6
DDCs Active	6, 16D

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: Damage assessments are currently on going through out the regions that were affected by the tornadoes and high winds that went through the state on March 21.

On March 22, 2022, Governor Abbott issued a disaster declaration for the following counties: Bastrop, Cass, Cooke, Grayson, Guadalupe, Houston, Jack, Madison, Marion, Montague, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rusk, Upshur, Williamson, and Wise.

On March 21, Governor Abbott directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to mobilize state resources in anticipation of severe weather and flash flooding that is expected to impact areas of Texas beginning Monday afternoon into the early morning hours of Tuesday. Threats from the severe storms moving across Central, North, and East Texas could bring large hail, damaging winds, flash flooding, and the potential for tornados. Additionally, the state continues to support firefighting efforts in response to wildfires across Texas.

The following state assets have been mobilized in support of the severe weather response:

- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service - Texas A&M Task Force One and Texas Task Force Two (TX-TF1 & 2): Two Urban Search and Rescue Teams and four Swiftwater Boat Squads
- Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS): Saw crews on standby
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): Texas Game Warden Swiftwater Boat Rescue Teams

- Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS): Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) Severe Weather Packages.

The Texas State Emergency Operations Center (SOC) is activated at Level II Escalated Response in support of severe weather.

Texans are urged to follow these flood preparedness and safety tips during severe weather events:

- Know types of flood risk in your area. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center for information here: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>.
- Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- Build an emergency supply kit. For more information on how to build a kit, visit: <https://www.ready.gov/kit>.
- Purchase or renew a flood insurance policy. Homeowner's policies do not cover flooding. It typically takes up to 30 days for a policy to go into effect so the time to buy is well before a disaster. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.
- Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.
- Be extremely cautious of any water on roads or in creeks, streams, storm drains, or other areas – never attempt to cross flowing streams or drive across flooded roadways and always observe road barricades placed for your protection. Remember, "Turn Around Don't Drown".

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

Region 1 (Includes DDCs 4, 5, 6, and 22)

DDC 4 – Hurst (Includes: Denton, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise Counties)

Denton County: Tornado touched down near the City of Carrollton.

Hood County: Hood County submitted a Disaster Summary Outline.

Tarrant County: Tarrant County submitted a Disaster Summary Outline.

DDC 5 – Mt. Pleasant (Includes: Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties)

Cass County: Cass County Sheriff's Office requested assistance in Queen City storm damage has been reported with multiple trees down and persons trapped. Cass County submitted a Letter to the Governor and a Disaster Declaration on March 22.

DDC 6 – Tyler (Includes: Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood Counties)

DDC 6 will move to a Level III (increased readiness) for severe weather and winter weather. [Assisting local jurisdictions with damage assessments, DSO's, Debris clearance, iSTAT, pSTAT, and educating on the documentation process, long term recovery, VOADs, etc. EMCs are processing assessment numbers and setting processes for recovery in place. Assisting jurisdictions in identifying appropriate areas for joint PDAs.](#)

Marion County: Lake of the Pines: Reported RV trailers overturned near City of Gilmer. Marion County submitted a Disaster Declaration and Disaster Summary Outline on March 22. [Select areas in Marion County still have lines down in trees. Awaiting the Upshur Rural Coop to make their way to them.](#)

Panola County

[Panola has spotty outages to due downed lines/poles that still need repair.](#)

Rusk County: Rusk County EOC is activated to Level II. Rusk County submitted a Disaster Declaration on March 22. [US 84 in Rusk County is not closed, but Caution signage posted by TxDOT due to utility repair vehicles and personnel in the area. Rusk County has a major transmission line down across US 84 causing large pockets of outages, there is no estimated time of restoration for repairs.](#)

Smith County: Smith County ESD #2 EOC is activated to Level III. City of Whitehouse EOC is activated to Level III.

Upshur County: Upshur County submitted a Disaster Declaration on March 22. [Upshur Rural Coop is working in Upshur County to restore service, but still have remaining pockets due to extent of damage to power lines/poles.](#)

Secondary searches were completed Tuesday and damage assessments are ongoing. A Disaster Declaration and Disaster Summary Outline were submitted. County officials are meeting to organize recovery operations. NWS completed an assessment of the area and determined that the system that went through the area was a EF2 tornado with 135 mph winds.

A Volunteer Reception Center was established Tuesday and located at the New Beginnings Baptist Church in Gilmer. The American Red Cross, Texas Baptist Men, and Samaritan's Purse along with many individual volunteers were on scene assisting with individuals affected by the tornado.

Locating debris disposal sites will be the priority for tomorrow with assistance from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

DDC 22 – Sherman (Includes: Cooke, Fannin and Grayson Counties)

Cooke County: Tornado touched down near the City of Gainesville in Cooke County. Cooke County submitted a Disaster Summary Outline on 21 March 2022. Cooke County submitted a Disaster Declaration on 22 March 2022.

Grayson County: The Grayson County EOC is activated at Level I. Tornado touched down near the City of Gordonville. Tornado touched down near the City of Sherwood Shores. A fatality has been reported in the community of Sherwood Shores in Grayson County.

National Weather Service meteorologists conducted a storm survey today with OEM and have determined that an EF-2 tornado with maximum winds of 130 mph impacted the Sherwood Shores area.

TX-TF2 completed Search and Rescue of the community and performed damage assessments on the structures. 109 residences were searched at which time only one resident remained needing evacuation assistance. Of the 109 properties assessed, 53 were determined to be destroyed, 27 had major damage, nine had minor damage and 20 were unaffected.

A shelter is open in Whitesboro (First Baptist). The United Way of Grayson provided non-congregate shelter for two injured victims released from the hospital.

Grayson Disaster Relief cash donations will be collected by United Way as fiscal agent for the benefit of local storm impacted residents and first responding agencies. Text "gctv" to 313131 to make a donation today. Collections of items and goods cannot be managed by the impacted areas at this time.

Region 2 (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16 Houston, 16 Texas City, 16 Conroe, and DDC Pierce)

DDC 13 – Bryan (Includes: Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson and Washington Counties)

Brazos County: Tornado touched down Southwest of College Station in Brazos County.

Madison County: Madisonville submitted a Disaster Declaration on March 22. Recovery efforts are underway in the city of Madisonville and Madison County after the National Weather Service confirmed the tornado on Monday night as an EF1 with winds of 105 miles per hour.

Currently VOAD partners, American Red Cross with partnership with United Way have established a multi-agency resource center distributing food, clothing, and some housing.

Delivery of ice and water occurred and the Madisonville Volunteer Fire Department to opened and operated the POD site for the affected city residents. The city of Madisonville is working with Brazos County Food Bank to receive food for city residents that are without electricity.

A mutual aid agreement was utilized with Harris County OEM to obtain and deliver a generator to support the county and city radio communications due to the power outage.

Tuesday, there was an evacuation mission of one nursing home and one assisted living facility. Due to severe damage to the two facilities and no electrical power, (EMTF) Emergency Medical Task Force 7 and the Bryan College Station AMBUS along an ambulance strike team, evacuated and transported 89 residents or patients that were transported to sister facilities in Bryan College Station and Navasota.

The city of Madisonville and Madison County with continued cooperation have established two Debris Removal sites. Debris removal is underway and instructions for residents has been issued. Madisonville Public Works Department is overseeing the Debris Management of the two sites.

With poor cellular service citywide, a resource request was submitted for Cellular on Wheels which arrived Tuesday night.

Individual Assistance damage assessments are ongoing. Current numbers for homes: 9 Major, 20 minor, and 8 businesses. TDEM Region Two Recovery Coordinators arrived Tuesday and will assist the city capture costs, DSO reporting, and provide guidance on iSTAT and pSTAT tools.

Madison County and the city of Madisonville continue with their recovery efforts. TDEM has co-located in the Madison County EOC to support both the jurisdictions.

DDC 14 – Lufkin (Includes: Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler Counties)

Recovery efforts continue in both areas, to include volunteers assisting home owners with inputting iSTAT information. Power restoration continues to progress in both Houston and Nacogdoches County.

Nacogdoches County: Nacogdoches County submitted a Letter to the Governor and a Disaster Declaration.

City of Cushing Water Department has issued Boil Water Notice for their residents due to large leaks and excessive loss of water amounts daily.

The Nacogdoches EOC is activated. There are approximately 62 homes affected by the severe weather.

Cellular communication services continue to improve (COW on location in Cushing).

Houston County: Probable tornadic activity in Houston County around 10:45 PM critically injured 3 persons and caused damage to approximately 30 homes. Crockett Civic Center continues to serve as the shelter, hosting 60-70 residents.

Houston County submitted a Disaster Declaration. Approximately 30 homes affected by the severe weather.

DDC 16 – Rosenberg (Includes: Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda, and Wharton Counties):

DDC 16D activated to Readiness Level III (increased readiness). There are reported damages to structures and utility poles in Wharton County, and some damages to mobile homes in Fort Bend County.

Region 5 (Includes DDCs 1, 2, 3, and 7)

DDC 3 – Wichita Falls (Includes: Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young Counties)

Jack County: Tornado debris field in Jacksboro approximately 10-15 miles long, 1/2 mile wide from Barton Chapel Rd to Hwy 59. TPWD in Jack County responded to Jacksboro to assist with search and rescue efforts. Tornado damaged schools in Jacksboro the students were taking shelter within the structure itself.

Jack County submitted a Letter to the Governor and a Disaster Declaration.

Montague County: Tornado touched down near the City of Bowie. City of Bowie Submitted Disaster Declaration on March 21.

Montague County submitted a Letter to the Governor and a Disaster Declaration.

Region 6 (Includes DDCs 11, 12, 17, 18A, 18B, and 23)

DDC 12 – Austin (Includes: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, and Williamson Counties)

Bastrop County: Bastrop County submitted a Disaster Declaration. [Damage assessments are ongoing, iSTAT – 94 Submitted.](#)

[Bluebonnet and Encore Electric continued to work to restore power approximately nine homes. Volunteers continue to support OEM via CERT and other groups being coordinated by OEM Bastrop County.](#)

Caldwell County: Tornado touched down near the City of Luling.

Travis County:

City of Elgin: Reports of a tornado touch down in Elgin.

Damage assessments are ongoing in the City of Elgin. There are nine power poles and 1,000 feet of line down, along with numerous trees down. Approximately 65 homes were damaged by the tornado in upper Elgin.

Williamson County: Williamson County submitted a Disaster Declaration.

City of Granger: Tornado touched down near Granger.

City of Round Rock: Tornado touched down in the city. Reports of an overturned semi-truck and trees uprooted after tornado touched down in Round Rock. Reports of businesses damaged within the Round Rock City Limits. A woman was rescued from a collapsed structure in Round Rock. Numerous homes reported to have been damaged. [The City of Round Rock submitted a Disaster Declaration and a Disaster Summary Outline on March 23.](#)

[The City of Jarrell submitted a Disaster Summary Outline on March 23.](#)

DDC 18 – San Antonio (Includes: Bandera, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Kendall, Kerr, and Medina Counties)

Guadalupe County: Tornado touched down near the City of Kingsbury.

Guadalupe County submitted a Letter to the Governor and a Disaster Declaration.

DDC 23 – Killeen (Includes: Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills and San Saba Counties)

Bell County: Tornado touched down on Ft. Hood. Ft. Hood reported their weather radar potentially damaged.

Milam County: Tornado touched down near the City of Rockdale.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Texas A&M University System (TAMUS): Regional staff have been deployed to impacted areas to assist local officials in damage assessment and identification of needs. The SOC continues to facilitate information sharing and the coordination of response and recovery operations.

TDEM Communications Coordination Group (CCG): The CCG is working with their public, private, vendor and volunteer partners to respond to possible communications outages caused by the severe weather event. The tornado that went through the city of Jacksboro impacted the cellular network supporting Jacksboro, resulting in a degraded network. The various cellular providers responded by deploying equipment and personnel. AT&T FirstNet deployed two SAT COLTs and associated personnel. Verizon deployed technicians and support equipment. The Commission on State Emergency Communication (CSEC) is confirming possible impacts to PSAP 9-1-1 service in Jack County.

TDEM Mass Care: All current ARC sheltering activities are pending coordination and confirmation, and a midnight shelter count will be provided on March 23 at 7:00 AM. Independent shelters were opened in Elgin in Travis County and Round Rock in Williamson County. ARC will utilize local vendors, shelf stable meals, snacks and water in ARC managed shelters. ARC will also work with feeding partners to support shelter operations. ARC teams are moving into impacted areas to provide information to clients on where to find community services and donations. ARC is coordinating with local, state, and federal emergency management partners on planning assumptions and response activities. The ARC has been monitoring the various counties within the state for any asks or needs. [ARC assessed 266 homes. There are 75 homes destroyed, 62 homes with major damage, 82 homes with minor damage, and 47 homes affected.](#)

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) / Texas A&M Public Works Response Team (TX-PWRT): [The Advance Team Lead is enroute to the community of Cushing to assist with a large water leak and provide assistance in determining what is needed to stop the leak.](#)

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX): Texas Task Force 1 & 2 (TX-TF1 &2): All Texas A&M Task Force 1 and Texas Task Force 2 resources were demobilized at 4:00 PM on March 22, 2022. All personnel arrived home at 9:00 PM on March 22, 2022.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS): Chain saw crews deployed to assist with recovery efforts. [Using Field Maps, the structure damage assessment team completed damage assessments for much of the affected area Wednesday. The remaining area should be completed Thursday, March 24. The plans team tracked resources and completed an IAP.](#)

Public Utilities Commission of Texas (PUC): The PUC was activated to the SOC effective 8:00 AM on Monday, March 21. The PUC has been tracking approximately 52,000 outages throughout the state, primarily in Central and East Texas. Local outages caused by severe weather have lessened as restoration crews work to effect repairs, while new outages are created in the Easterly path of the storms.

Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC): The RRC is monitoring temporary natural gas service interruptions affecting the City of Carbon, City of Gorman, the City of Lipan, the City of Jacksboro, and the City of Round Rock. The natural gas service provider for the City of Gorman has restored service to nearly all customers. Natural gas service restoration efforts have begun for the City of Lipan. After assessing tornado damage, the natural gas service provider for the City of Jacksboro isolated service lines expected to be leaking and turned off meters serving damaged structures. [The area provider is still conducting area assessments and leak detection.](#) The natural gas service provider for the City of Round Rock is planning to deploy advanced natural gas leak detection technicians to the area. [The area provider is still conducting area assessments and leak detection.](#) The RRC will continue to work with the service providers and state and local partners until service is fully restored to these areas.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): TCEQ has staff available to assist local governments with any air/water/waste related issues including drinking water/wastewater issues and/or emergency response activities. Also, TCEQ has staff available to provide technical assistance and guidance regarding temporary debris management sites. [TCEQ reported seven boil water notices due to the severe weather which are affecting approximately 20,147 people.](#)

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS): The remote State Medical Operations Center (SMOC) activated to support severe weather operations beginning at 8:00 AM March 18th. EMTF resources were deployed to assist in transport.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): [The snow/ice event in the panhandle region wrapped up Tuesday and all operations in that area have returned to normal.](#) Crews in the Fort Worth District cleared roadways in Jack County from a tornado on March 21. The Austin, Bryan, Lufkin, Tyler, and Atlanta Districts are patrolling and clearing roads of trees and debris from the storms. [TxDOT is staffing the Remote SOC in person Wednesday and transitioned to virtual staffing Wednesday afternoon.](#)

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC): HHSC began staffing the SOC in support of emergency weather response operations on March 21. HHSC staff will remain in the SOC for the duration of the incident. HHSC is actively monitoring the situation. Long-term Care Regulation had multiple facilities impacted. For certified facilities, there was one facility evacuated, one facility with a power outage which required generator power, and one facility with minor leaking which required that some residents move to a different part of the facility. There

were also two assisted living facilities impacted. One is pending evacuation, and another has minor damage but required no evacuations. Childcare Regulation reports that up to four facilities have been damaged with one facility reporting that it has relocated due to damage. State Hospitals and State Supported Living Centers report no major impacts at this time. The Texas Information and Referral Network (TIRN) 2-1-1 is distributing information about disaster assistance as needed. Emergency ice, water, and contracts have been activated. Staff are working to fulfill two STARS for ice and water for Madison County.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS): Affected THP Disaster District Chairs are communicating with applicable state and local officials as needed. DPS troopers and other agency personnel are providing support to applicable affected areas as requested. The DPS Aircraft Operations Division provided an aircraft and crew to conduct an aerial assessment of tornadic damage in Grayson County. DPS troopers from Region 7 (Capitol District) assisting with damage assessments in Elgin. Additionally, DPS troopers from Region 6 (Austin) assisting with damage assessments, road conditions, and down power lines in Williamson County, and DPS troopers from Region 1 (Sherman) assisting with damage assessments in Grayson and Cooke Counties. THP Chief's Office providing personnel at the SOC in support of increased readiness level for severe weather.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TEEX TX-TF2	LNO	1	1	Assigned	Garland DDEOC
TEEX TX-TF1	LNO	2		Assigned	RSOC
TEEX TX-PWRT	Advance Team	2	2	Enroute	Cushing
TEEX TX-PWRT	SOC Support	1	1	Assigned	Austin
TCEQ	Staff	2		Activated	Austin/SOC
PUC	Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
RRC	Liaison	2		Assigned	RSOC
TXDPS	SOC LNO	1		Assigned	RSOC
TXDPS	Helicopter	2	1	Assigned	Dallas
TxDOT	Liaison	1		Assigned	RSOC

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Level I (Escalated Response Conditions) for COVID-19, Wildfire Outbreak, and the Severe Weather. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

Level I	(Emergency Conditions)
Level II	(Escalated Response Conditions)
Level III	(Increased Readiness Conditions)
Level IV	(Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:
<https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>

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